

2 killed by mob on mugging suspicion

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bogura

Two suspected muggers were allegedly beaten to death by a mob of villagers in Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha early yesterday.

The incident took place in the Mujahidpur area of Khoddokomarpur village, police said.

The deceased were identified as Lebu Mia, alias Bhondol, 24, of Satarpara village, and Moinul Islam, 50, of Mostafapur village in Palashbari upazila, said Sarwar Alam Khan, officer-in-charge (OC) of Palashbari Police Station.

According to police and witnesses, three muggers on a motorcycle intercepted a woman and her relative on Sadullapur-Thutiapakur road when they reached the Madarhat Kheya Ghat area upon arrival from Dhaka on a night coach around 4:30am.

Brandishing sharp weapons, the suspects robbed them of cash and gold ornaments, the witnesses said.

"When the victims screamed for help, locals began chasing the muggers.

While attempting to flee, the suspects lost control of their motorcycle and crashed in the Mujahidpur area," said Bidroh Kumar Kundu, additional superintendent of police (Gaibandha Circle). "Two of them were caught and beaten to death on the spot by the locals, while the third suspect managed to escape," he added.

Family members said Lebu Mia, the only son of widow Phulmati Begum, had been working in Dhaka as a rickshaw puller for three years. He lived there with his wife and one-year-old son and had returned to the village just two days ago to visit his mother.

The other deceased, Moinul Islam, had married Lebu's cousin as his second wife and was living with his father-in-law in Satarpara.

Abdul Alim, OC of Sadullapur Police Station, said police recovered the bodies and sent them to Gaibandha General Hospital morgue for autopsy. The motorcycle used by the suspects was seized.

Lebu Mia's mother, Phulmati, filed a murder case in connection with the incident, the OC added.

Author Sankar

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treatment at Peerless Hospital in Kolkata.

A Sahitya Akademi award winner, Sankar is better known for his novels — "Chowringee", "Seemabaddha", and "Jana Aranya".

Chowringee, first published in Bangla in 1962, revolves around the life of Shankar, an ambitious young man who loses his job of secretary after his employer, an English barrister, dies. Shankar, the protagonist, is forced to sell wastepaper baskets until a friend notices his state and helps him get a job at the Shahjahan Hotel. The story then takes readers through the lives of the elite of Calcutta (now Kolkata). The novel was adapted into a movie in 1968.

His other works — Seemabaddha and Jana Aranya — were also made into films and directed by Satyajit Ray.

Sankar was born on December 7, 1933 in Bongaon, in the then undivided Jessore district (now Jashore). His father, Haripada Mukherjee, was a well-known lawyer. Even before World War II, his family had moved to Kolkata. He spent his

childhood in Howrah.

In 1959, Ritwik Ghatak started making a film "Kato Ajanare" based on Sankar's first novel. The film project was shelved due to financial and production issues, with only a few scenes left to be filmed.

"Charan Chhuye Jai", "Vivekananda", "Achena Ajnana", "Dwitiya Purush", "Monihar", and "Piklu's Kolkata Travel" are some of his well-known works.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee expressed condolences over the demise of the noted litterateur.

Sankar's literary works remains unnervingly relevant. The anxieties of educated unemployment, moral compromise, social aspiration, and urban alienation persist across generations. Shankar understood something fundamental about modern existence — that the greatest tragedies are not spectacular. They are incremental.

He constructed moral cartographies, mapped the fault lines of ambition, survival, and dignity. His literature stands not as monument, but mirror.

Rebels want reinstatement, BNP unmoved

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Seeking anonymity, another BNP Standing Committee member said it would not be easy for the expelled leaders to return to party politics.

"Many expelled leaders have now contacted senior party figures to come back into the party fold. However, the party is unlikely to take a soft stance on the matter and is not giving it priority at the moment.

"Instead, it is focusing on evaluating loyal leaders who have followed central directives and are carrying out organisational activities at the district level."

In the February 12 national election, BNP alone won 209 seats, with its Chairman Tarique Rahman himself entering parliament for the first time after winning two constituencies. Its allies got three seats.

Of the 66 BNP rebel candidates, seven won in Mymensingh-1, Dinajpur-5, Cumilla-7, Kishoreganj-5, Tangail-3, Chandpur-4, and Brahmanbaria-2.

Expelled leaders said they are seeking an opportunity to return to the party, arguing that their absence is hampering the party's organisational activities in their districts.

They said implementation of central directives has slowed, coordination between district and grassroots units has weakened, and observance of national days and routine party programmes has also been affected.

Grassroots leaders are privately communicating with top leaders to get back their party posts, saying they are willing to abide by future party directives if given another chance.

In Munshiganj-3, expelled BNP district member secretary Md Mohiuddin, who lost the polls, said, "As the district BNP convener was ill, I had to carry out the party's activities as the second top leader of the party."

"Every year around February 21, the district BNP organises various programmes. But this time, very little is happening. Organisational activities are also stuck.

"For 17 years, I was involved in party's different movements and struggles. Now I appeal to the party to reinstate my party position."

In Sylhet-5, Mamunur Rashid, an adviser of Sylhet district BNP, who

was expelled for defying the party decision, lost the seat to the Khelafat Majlis candidate, a partner of Jamaat-led H-party alliance.

"I contested the election out of necessity for the party. I was expelled without even being served a show-cause notice. I seek an opportunity to take part in the party's activities in the future."

Another rebel candidate, Jamal Ahmed Chowdhury, vice-president of Narsingdi BNP, was defeated by the BNP candidate in Narsingdi-5.

Jamal said, "I stood by the party during its difficult times. The party did not evaluate us. But if Tarique Rahman now considers bringing us back into the party, we are here. If not, we have nothing to ask for."

This newspaper has spoken to over two dozen leaders who said they want to return to the party.

Meanwhile, the highest number of expulsions occurred at the district level.

The BNP also dismissed over 200 grassroots leaders for campaigning for rebel candidates. Many of them sought their return to the party, otherwise they will face uncertainty over their political future.

An expelled grassroots leader, wishing not to be named, said, "We don't know why the party expelled us without following proper procedure. As expelled leaders, we don't know how to continue in politics."

In total, 31 district leaders, including four general and joint general secretaries, five vice-presidents, and 22 members and conveners, along with 11 upazila and thana level leaders and seven general members, faced exclusion from the party.

At the central level, 17 leaders were expelled, including one adviser, one joint office secretary, one joint international affairs secretary, 13 executive members, and one central leader of an associate body, according to the expulsion documents.

According to the party's central office in Nayapaltan, any reconsideration of reinstatement would likely depend on written appeals, review of individual cases, and assessment of their roles during the election.

For now, the BNP leadership appears determined to send a message that defying party discipline carries consequences, said party sources.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION, DHAKA
(Admiralty Jurisdiction)

Company Matter No. 2023 of 2025

Md. Solaiman, Shareholder & Managing Director,
Haji Hashem Spinning Mills Ltd.
.....Petitioner

-Versus-

Haji Hashem Spinning Mills Ltd. & Others
..... Respondents

Notice is hereby given that Md. Solaiman has filed an application under Sections 81(2) and 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 read with Section 396 before the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

The petition was admitted by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque on 01.02.2026. The Hon'ble Court has directed that any person intending to oppose the said petition shall file an Affidavit-in-Opposition within 26.02.2026 after publication of this notice. Any person having objection may appear in person or through a duly appointed Advocate before the Hon'ble Court within the stipulated time.

A copy of the petition may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of the prescribed cost.

Sd/-
Md. Rokunuzzaman
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Supreme Court Bar Association Building, Dhaka

Gaza deaths far higher than reported

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author is Michael Spagat, a professor at Royal Holloway, University of London. The study is the first independent population survey of mortality in the Gaza Strip, said its authors, whose research involved surveying 2,000 Palestinian households over seven days starting on December 30, 2024.

"The combined evidence suggests that, as of Jan 5, 2025, 3-4 percent of the population of the Gaza Strip had been killed violently and there have been a substantial number of non-violent deaths caused indirectly by the conflict," the authors wrote.

The Gaza death toll has been bitterly disputed since Israel's assault began on October 7, 2023. Gaza health authorities, whose figures the UN has long deemed reliable, report more than 72,000 killed and estimate thousands

more remain uncounted beneath destroyed buildings 28 months later. Israel has questioned those tallies, citing Hamas control of the ministry, though a senior military officer told Israeli media last month its figures were broadly accurate — a view the army later said did not reflect official data.

Lancet researchers said their analysis contradicts claims of inflation and suggests the ministry numbers are, if anything, conservative under extreme conditions.

Researchers who published a statistical analysis last year for The Lancet, its flagship journal, found the health ministry likely undercounted deaths by about 40 percent during the first nine months of the war. The new research published on Wednesday appears to suggest an undercount by a similar margin.

Delhi seeks

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inclusive Bangladesh. "Building on the warm and historic ties between the two countries, India looks forward to further strengthening our multifaceted bilateral ties with Bangladesh," he said.

Asked if India had formally stopped purchasing Russian oil as is being claimed by the United States, the spokesperson said Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has already clarified the country's position in this regard.

Misri had recently stated that India's oil imports from Russia, and elsewhere, are guided by national interest, energy security, and diversification, rather than external pressure.

On whether India would start buying oil from Venezuela, the spokesperson said New Delhi can explore that option also if it is commercially viable.

Responding to another question, the spokesperson said India did participate in the Board of Peace meeting in Washington as an observer.

"We did attend the Board of Peace meeting in Washington DC as an observer. We have also welcomed the Gaza Peace Plan initiative of President Trump as well as efforts under way as part of resolution 2803 of the UNSC," he added.

India was represented at the meet by Charge d'affaires at the Indian Embassy in Washington Namgya Khampa.

আমর একুশ

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে
ভাষা সৈনিক ও ভাষা শহীদদের প্রতি
গভীর শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি

মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
Mercantile Bank PLC.
দকতাই আমাদের শক্তি

ইসলামী ব্যাংক
বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি. (ইসলামী ব্যাংক) লিমিটেড

'10-15 days'

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But he declined to be specific, except to warn again of "really bad things" and insist that Iran would have to make a deal one way or another.

Russia called for restraint, with a Kremlin spokesperson saying, "We are currently witnessing an unprecedented escalation of tension in the region, but we still hope that political and diplomatic means and negotiations will continue to prevail in the search for a settlement".

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Tehran said it would not start any war but that "in the event that it is subjected to military aggression, Iran will respond decisively and proportionately" in its exercise of the right of self-defense.

"All bases, facilities, and assets of the hostile force in the region would constitute legitimate targets," the letter said. "The United States would bear full and direct responsibility for any unpredictable and uncontrolled consequences."

Meanwhile, Norway is relocating some of the around 60 soldiers it has in the Middle East to Norway as well as to other countries in the Middle East, citing the security situation in the region, a spokesperson for the Nordic country's armed forces said yesterday.

Trump's threats to bomb Iran, with the two sides far apart in talks on Tehran's nuclear programme, have pushed up oil prices, and a Russian corvette warship on Thursday joined planned Iranian naval drills in the Gulf of Oman, a vital sea route for global energy.

আমর একুশ
ফেব্রুয়ারি

ভাষার অধিকার
মানেই
মানুষের অধিকার

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে
সকল ভাষা সৈনিক ও ভাষা শহীদদের প্রতি আমাদের
বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা ও ভালোবাসা।

শাহজালাল ইসলামী ব্যাংক পিএলসি.
আন্তর্জাতিক সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতি

আমর একুশ

আমার অহংকার
আমার অধিকার
আমার পরিচয়

আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসে ভাষা সৈনিকদের শ্রদ্ধা করছি বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধায়

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বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি. (ইসলামী ব্যাংক) লিমিটেড